

Message Text

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E. O. 11652

TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: INSTRUCTIONS OF THE IV CORPS COMMANDER

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON BIEN HOA NHA TRANG DANANG
MAR 9 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE CAN THO 022

1. MAJOR GENERAL NGUYEN VINH NGHI, IV CORPS COMMANDER, HELD AN ALL DAY MEETING MARCH 8 OF DELTA PROVINCE CHIEFS AND DIVISION COMMANDERS.

THE PURPOSE WAS TO REVIEW PROVINCE BY PROVINCE THE STATE OF EVENTS IN THE DELTA SINCE THE QTE CEASEFIRE UNQTE. HIS ADVISOR, BRIG GEN

BLAZEY, AND I WERE AMONG MANY OFFICIAL AMERICANS WHO ATTENDED. THE CREAM OF NGHI'S TWO HOURS OF CONCLUDING ORAL GUIDANCE FOLLOWS:

A. PROTECT THE ICCS AND THE JMC FROM INCIDENTS ARISING FROM DEMONSTRATIONS. THERE IS NO BENEFIT TO THE GVN WHEN DEMONSTRATIONS GET OUT OF HAND.

B. LIMIT CONTACT WITH VC/ NVA LEADERS, WHO SEEK A DIALOGUE BY RADIO

OR OTHER MEANS, TO DIVISION COMMANDERS OR NGHI HIMSELF. PROVINCE CHIEFS ARE FORBIDDEN TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS.

C. REPORT VC/ NVA CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DAILY TO THE REGION VI OR VII GVN CHIEF OF THE JMC.

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D. GIVE ALL POPULAR PETITIONS AGAINST VC/ NVA DEPREDACTIONS TO THE

SAME INDIVIDUAL, UNLESS THE PETITION IS PRESENTED TO THE DIVISION, IN WHICH CASE THE DIVISION G3 WILL HANDLE IT.

E. RESTRICT USE OF ARTILLERY AMMUNITION, SINCE A HIGH RATE OF AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE CAUSES DIFFICULTIES TO THE US GOVERNMENT AND CONGRESS, AND RISKS THE CUTTING OFF OF US AID. SPECIFICALLY, THERE WILL BE NO MORE NIGHT HARRASSMENT AND INTERDICTION FIRE, OR ARTILLERY USE IN RESPONSE TO INTELLIGENCE OR IN DEFENSE AGAINST SMALL ATTACKS. NGHI SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT IF VC/ NVA FORCES WERE PLATOON- SIZED OR SMALLER, OR IF AN ATTACK BY FIRE CONSISTED OF 60 MM MORTAR SHELLS, THEN 81 MM MORTAR FIRE WAS TO BE USED IN RESPONSE. IF THE ATTACK WAS COMPANY- SIZED OR LARGER, OR IF INCOMING ROUNDS WERE 82 MM, ARTILLERY SUPPORT COULD BE CALLED IN.

F. EXPECT NO AIR SUPPORT EXCEPT THAT AUTHORIZED BY CORPS, WHICH WILL RATION IT JUDICIOUSLY.

G. REACT STRONGLY TO VC VIOLATIONS, BUT STRICTLY FOLLOW THE JGS INJUNCTION AGAINST GOING ON THE OFFENSIVE AND ATTACKING THE VC IN THEIR LAIR.

H. COMPLETE PLANNED GOALS UNDER THE PACIFICATION PROGRAM.

I. PREPARE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT FOR SOME OF THE 150,000-300,000 RVNAF WHO MAY BE DEMOBILIZED NATIONWIDE BEFORE THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.

2. NGHI MADE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE STATED HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY WOULD BE PRESIDENTIAL, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, OR VILLAGE. HE INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE VC/ NVA MIGHT LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE BY APRIL 1973, THE MORE PROBABLE TIME WAS THE END OF JUNE OR EARLY JULY WHEN HE BELIEVES ELECTIONS MIGHT TAKE PLACE. HE SAID THAT IF THE LIBERATION FRONT FAILED TO GAIN A SUFFICIENT POLITICAL STANDING AT THAT TIME, IT WOULD THEN OPEN AN OFFENSIVE, HE STRESSED THE NECESSITY FOR CONTINUING ARVN AND TERRITORIAL FORCE ALERTNESS.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT THIEU APPARENTLY MADE MANY OF THE SAME POINTS IN SAIGON TO NGHI AND THE PROVINCE CHIEF TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY. NGHI EMPHASIZED THAT THE VC/ NVA THROUGH 7 MARCH HAD COMMITTED 2071 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS IN THE DELTA, MORE THAN IN ANY OTHER REGION. DESPITE THE INJUNCTION AGAINST OFFENSIVE ACTIONS, AND THE STRICTURES ON USE OF ARTILLERY AND AIR, HE OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT INTEND TO STAND IDLE IF ATTACKED. HE SEEMS INTENT ON TESTING ICCS CAPABILITIES BY REFERRING MORE VC/ NVA VIOLATIONS TO THE ICCS FOR INVESTIGATION. SIGNED BARNES UNQUOTE

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